Balance Amount of 1995-96 funds Under MPLADS

*243. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) when will the balance of Rs. 50 lakh of 1995-96 per MP in MPLADS will reach District Collectors;

(b) the account in which the Collectors will keep the money;

(c) what happens to the interest accruing on it; and

(d) whether the interest will also be spent in MPLADS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The balance amount of Rs. 50 lakhs of 1995-96 will be released based on the physical and financial progress of the schemes under implementation.

(b) A separate account is to be maintained in Bank by the Collectors which is independent of the State Government funds.

(c) and (d) The decision about the manner in which the interest is to be utilised is yet to be taken.

E-MAIL Addresses of District Collectors under M.Ps. Local Area Development Scheme

*244. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the E-Mail addresses of all the District Collectors in India on which the M.Ps. can communicate with them for the purpose of M.Ps. Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) whether the Collectors have been informed that the M.Ps. will be regularly sending them E. mail for M.Ps. Local Area Development Scheme; and

(c) what is the plan of Government in encouraging this procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The list of E-mail addresses on which MPs can communicate with the District Collectors is enclosed at Annexure-I [See Appendix 174, annexure no 51]

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Informatics Centre have sent E. Mail to all Collectors informing them that members of Parliament will be communicating to them over NICNET E-Mail for Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

(c) All the District Collectors have access to E-mail facility over NICNET which can be used to exchange E-mail with Members of Parliament. In addition, the software for monitoring various schemes under MPLADS has also been sent to District Collectors. Some of the Members of Parliament who have been provided with Notebook Computers by Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha have been provided training by NIC to use E-mail facility over NICNET. An information Booth has also been set up near the Central Hall of Parliament which is connected to NICNET. Members of Parliament can also use this facility to get information about their various schemes.

P.F. Subscription of Employees of Wings Wear Company

*245. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Management of Wings Wear Company Private Limited has not deposited the subscription of the employees towards Provident Fund Accounts for the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details of the funds lying with the management of the aforesaid company and the action taken to recover the same and deposit it in the Provident Fund Accounts of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs.

11,68,709/- representing employer's share of Provident Fund pertaining to different periods from March, 1993 to February, 1995 is outstanding against M/s. Wings Wear Company Private Limited. The Compliance for the period from March, 1995 onward has also not been done by the Company. Necessary legal proceedings under section 7-A of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 to determine the total dues have already been initiated.

A show cause notice in this regard has also been issued to the employer.

South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement

*246. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) has lately been signed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what specific concessions India has offered to extend for promotion of mutual trade amongst the Member Countries and the expected signatories under the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The agreement establishing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed on 11th April, 1993 at the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka.

(b) Under the SAPTA Framework Agreement, tariff concessions have to be negotiated amongst member countries product-wise on a step by step basis. The Agreement inter-alia also provides that concessions offered to non-LDC members are to be multilateralised amongst all SAPTA members and those offered to LDC members are to be multilateralised amongst SAPTA LDC members. An Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) was also set up to negotiate the first round of trade concessions.

(c) Negotiations for exchange of first round of tariff concessions under SAPTA were concluded at the 6th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Trade Liberalisation held at Kathmandu on 20th and 21st April, 1995. In the first round of negotiations, exchange of tariff concessions have been agreed on a small number of tariff lines. India has offered concessions on 106 tariff lines and will receive direct tariff concessions on 43 tariff lines and concessions on 92 tariff lines through multilateralisation of concessions offered under SAPTA by other members. The concessions negotiated will be operationalised after ratification of the Agreement is completed by all member countries. The national schedules of concessions containing the lists of commodities for tariff reduction as negotiated by IGG were approved at the 15th session of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in New Delhi on 30th April and 1st May, 1995. The SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on 2nd to 4th May, 1995 directed that all necessary steps be taken to facilitate ratification by all member states and to operationalise the SAPTA Agreement by the end of 1995.

Public Utility Commission

*247. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set up a Public Utility Commission which would have representatives from the private voluntary organisations working in the field of consumer education; and

(b) if so, the details of method/criteria for appointing Chairman/Members of the Commission and other terms and conditions to be prescribed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) In accordance with the recommendation of the Central Consumer Protection Council, the Central Government constituted a working group to examine the necessity of setting up of a Public Utilities Commission. The Report was submitted by the working Group. Public Utilities Commission is a new concept in our country and various ramification of the proposal have to be analysed in depth before arriving at a decision.